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# Sandberg Phoenix Elects Bhavik Patel as Managing Partner

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PRACTICE GROUP: BUSINESS LITIGATION, BUSINESS

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## *Patel Signals Passing of the Torch to Firm's Second Generation*

Sandberg Phoenix has elected St. Louis equity Shareholder Bhavik Patel, as its new Managing Partner, a position held by John Sandberg for six years. At age 38, Patel is the first Indian-American to be elected to this position among similarly sized law firms in St. Louis. His term begins on November 1.

"Having just celebrated our 37 year anniversary on August 16th, it is with great excitement and enthusiasm that Bhavik becomes our Managing Partner," says Shareholder and Founding member John Sandberg. "I am confident the next generation of attorneys at our firm will continue our tradition of fostering a collegial environment focused on superior client service."

"I am honored by the confidence and trust of my fellow partners in electing me to this position," said Patel, a shareholder and the firm's chair of the Wealth Planning Group. "As I take this role, I am joined by new practice group leaders who are all in their 30s and early 40s, and who share my vision for continuing the growth and prosperity of the firm."

Patel, who joined Sandberg Phoenix in 2004, served as Practice Group Leader for the Business Transactional practice group, is a member of the firm's Diversity Committee and managed the firm's Clayton, Missouri and O'Fallon, Illinois offices. He practices in both the Business and Business Litigation practice groups and focuses his practice on the following areas: Wealth/Tax Planning and Administration, Special Needs Planning, Probate and Trust Litigation.

"I am excited about the new role and coupled with being around great people will allow me to manage the firm and continue to serve our clients to the same level that they have come to expect," says Patel.

Having been recognized in 2013 by *Missouri Lawyer's Weekly* as an Up & Coming Law Firm Leader of the Year, Patel was also named in 2010 and 2013 as a Rising Star by *Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers* in the area of Estate Planning and Probate. For his outstanding work with Closely Held Companies and in Family Business Law, his peers selected Patel as a Best Lawyer for inclusion in *Best Lawyers in America* in 2015 and 2016.

Outside of the office, Patel is a member of Washington University School of Law's adjunct faculty and teaches a class entitled, "Practical Issues in Wealth Planning & Drafting." He is also the Founder and Chairman of the Board for Families at Ease, a local not-for-profit entity focused on delivering information about programs, services and resources available for special needs children and their families.

Patel received his LL.M. in Taxation from the Washington University School of Law; his J.D. from the University of Arkansas-Little Rock School of Law; his M.B.A. from the Illinois Institute of Technology-Stuart College of Business, high honors; and his B.B.A., *magna cum laude*, from Georgia State University.